33	near-duplicate of a previously processed
34	document, then associating the document
35	corresponding to the candidate search result with
36	a cluster identifier associated with the
37	previously processed document.

Please cancel claims 14, 15, 30-33 and 39 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), separate sheets with the rewritten claim marked-up to show the changes made to the previous version of the claim, is filed herewith.

#### REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Accordingly, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.

The applicants will now address each of the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action.



### Objections

Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was found to include allowable subject matter. Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form to include the elements of base claim 14 and intervening claim 15. Accordingly, this objection to claim 16 should be withdrawn.

#### Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 14, 15, 30-33 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,119,124 ("the Broder patent"). The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection in view of the following. Since these claims have been canceled, this ground of rejection is now moot.

## Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

June 12, 2003

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# CERTIFICATE OF MAILING under 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on **June 12, 2003** with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

John C. Pokotylo

Reg. No. 36,242



# SEPARATE SHEETS WITH MARKED UP VERSION OF CLAIM PER 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 (c) (1) (iii)

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

1	16. (AMENDED) A method for filtering search results to
2	remove near-duplicates, the method comprising:
3	a) for each of a predetermined number of candidate
4	search results, determining whether the candidate
5	search result is a near-duplicate of another candidate
6	search result; and
7	b) if it is determined that the candidate search
8	result is a near-duplicate of another candidate search
9	result, then rejecting the candidate search result
10	wherein the act of determining whether a
11	candidate search result is a near-duplicate of another
12	candidate search result includes
13	i) comparing a cluster identifier of the
14	candidate search result with that of the other
15	candidate search result, and
16	ii) if the cluster identifiers of the two
17	candidate search results match, then concluding
18	that the two candidate search results are
19	near-duplicates, and
20	[The method of claim 15] wherein cluster identifiers of the
21	candidate search results are assigned by:
22	i) determining whether or not a document
23	corresponding to the candidate search result is a
24	near-duplicate of any of previously processed
25	documents,
26	ii) if it is determined that the document
27	corresponding to the candidate search result is $\bigwedge$

28	not a near-duplicate of any previously processed
29	document, then associating the document with a
30	unique cluster identifier, and
31	iii) if it is determined that the document
32	corresponding to the candidate search result is a
33	near-duplicate of a previously processed
34	document, then associating the document
35	corresponding to the candidate search result with
36	a cluster identifier associated with the
37	previously processed document.

